

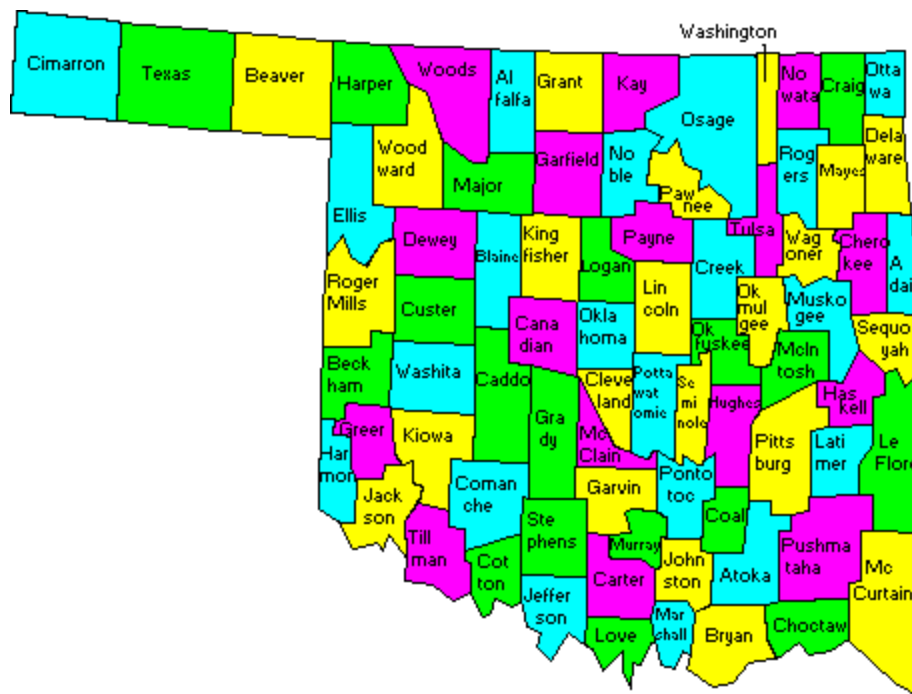
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Oklahoma

Profile of Drug Indicators

April 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Oklahoma

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, funding, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 3,146,000 (1990 census), 3,347,000 (1998 estimate)
- Age Breakdown: People 65 years and older make up 13.4% of Oklahoma's population while those under 18 make up 26.7% of the States population.
- Gender Breakdown: Oklahoma's population is 48.6% male and 51.4% female.
- Race Breakdown: Oklahoma's population is mostly white (82%) followed by American Indians (8%), African Americans (7%), and Hispanics (2%).
- Percent of population below the poverty level: 15.6%

Politics²

- Governor: Frank Keating
- Lt. Governor: Mary Fallin
- Attorney General: W.A. Drew Edmondson
- Commissioner of Health: J.R. Nida
- Director of Alcoholic Beverage Law Enforcement Commission: R.L. Willis
- Director Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control: Malcolm Atwood
- U.S. Senators: James Inhofe (R), Don Nickles (R),
- U.S. Representatives: Steve Largent (R), Tom Coburn (R), Wes Watkins (R), J.C. Watts (R), Ernest Istook (R), Frank Lucas (R)

Programs/Initiatives

- In FY 1998 the Mayor's Commission for a Responsible and Drug-Free Community in Lawton, Oklahoma, received \$100,000 from the Drug Free Communities Support Program grant. The commission will target youth in Lawton Public Schools. Lawton is located in southwestern part of Oklahoma. The commission will develop a substance abuse prevention curriculum, which will be implemented in Lawton Public Schools by the 1999-2000 school year. It will also work closely with the Native American Tobacco Coalition of Oklahoma to provide tobacco use prevention education to schools and community groups. Another community coalition in Oklahoma was awarded a Drug Free Community Support Program grant in FY 1999 for \$90,970. The McCurtain County Educational Co-op in Idabel, Oklahoma was awarded fund to prevent youth drug use.³
- Oklahoma City Weed & Seed Program was started in 1993. Some milestones achieved since 1993 include the following: successful arrest and prosecution of the worst drug and violent gang offenders in the target area; substantial reduction of open air drug markets; increase in resident's perception of safety; implementation of a police substation; high resident participation in neighborhood meetings; placement of additional community police in the target area; establishment of the Safe Haven, a drug abuse support group and a substance abuse referral network; "one-stop" approach for health, social, educational, and recreational services; establishment of

youth councils; remedying of code violations; summary reports with recommendations as to restoration/conservation; implementation of Housing Rehabilitation and Ownership Program to the neighborhood; and committee prioritization of restoration problems and resources.

An important factor in the Oklahoma Weed and Seed site for 1996-1997 is evaluation. A local planning and assessment team, the Oklahoma Technical Assistance Team (OTAT), was assembled to design, guide, and evaluate the programs. In addition, Starting Right! will assist in these efforts as will Families First. A tutoring center was developed at the Oak Grove Learning Center to include computers and a library outreach center. A law enforcement handbook designed to clarify policies and procedures of all agencies involved in the law enforcement aspects will be developed. Numerous groups have provided assistance in the areas of prevention including AmeriCorps, Boy and Girl Scouts, a Latino Program, 4H Club, and Head Start. Focus will be placed on domestic violence intervention, leadership development, cultural diversity, safe homes, and community service work.⁴

- The Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control announces Operation: "At It Again," the 1999 marijuana eradication program in which many cultivated and wild marijuana crops are being destroyed via herbicide spraying techniques. State, Federal and local law officers, along with National Guard personnel have been sweeping across the state eradicating wild and cultivated marijuana fields, as well as making arrests and seizures against those tending these illicit crops. Many of the fields are being destroyed using the common weed killer, Glyphosate ("Round-Up"). The herbicide is being applied by backpack spray rigs, as well as aerial spraying from a helicopter. The weed killer, which is proven to be safe and effective, contains a red dye designed to deter anyone from trying to further cultivate, sell or smoke this red marijuana.⁵
- Beckham County Juvenile Drug Court
Since its inception in February 1998, this program has served 20 juveniles with only one committing another drug offense. The program is built on a partnership between the drug court, the school districts, church groups, businesses and local Office of Juvenile Affairs staff. The drug court philosophy emphasizes a team approach to helping juveniles and the necessity of ample treatment time. Services last nine months and include intensive counseling, AA meetings, drug testing, frequent court hearings, close supervision, and immediate sanctions for juvenile lapses. This is one of 27 drug courts now operating or being planned in Oklahoma.⁶
- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Services
In fiscal year 1999, 100 juveniles participated in specialized substance abuse treatment services at Drug Recovery, Inc., Arcadia, the Second Chance Program in Wetumka, and the L. E. Rader Center in Sand Springs. These programs prepare youth for a drug-free return to their communities and are funded through contracts with OJA and grants from the District Attorney's Council and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.⁷

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- Oklahoma has 1,333 State law enforcement employees, and 9,946 local law enforcement employees, from 301 agencies. Of the 19,894 arrests for drug abuse violations in Oklahoma during 1998 10.1% involved an offender under the age of 18.

Arrests in Oklahoma 1998⁸

Offense	Juvenile	Total all Ages
Murder and Non-negligent manslaughter	26	182
Forcible Rape	61	417
Robbery	286	826
Aggravated Assault	772	4,666
Burglary	1,626	3,965
Larceny Theft	6,523	14,574
Motor Vehicle Theft	820	1,964
Arson	197	339
Drug Abuse Violations	2,010	19,894
Driving Under the Influence	513	21,356
Liquor Laws	976	4,997
Drunkenness	1,234	29,410

- The Crime Index Total in Oklahoma fell 8.1% between 1997 and 1998. Both the violent crime index and the property crime index fell between 1997 and 1998. Violent crime fell 2.3% and the property crime fell 8.7%.⁹
- During 1998 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 69% of male arrestees tested positive for an illicit drug. The most popular drug among arrestees was marijuana (53.1%).¹⁰

Percent of Male Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs by Offense, Oklahoma City 1998

Offense	Cocaine	Marijuana	Methamp.	PCP	Any Drug
Violent	21.7%	50.0%	0%	1.7%	60.0%
Property	29.0	53.6	8.7	0	72.5
Drug	37.5	68.2	17.0	5.7	87.5
Other	23.4	46.1	5.8	2.6	61.0
Total	27.3	53.1	8.0	2.7	69.0

Drugs

- Methamphetamine use, production, and trafficking is proliferating the State of Oklahoma. A recent study from the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse found that stimulant use (including methamphetamine) was 42 percent higher than the national average and within the 26 to 34 age group it was 78% higher than the national average. Oklahoma also ranks third in the nation for meth lab seizures. The rural areas of Oklahoma have also seen an increase in methamphetamine production. Meth producers move into the rural areas because they know the police are understaffed and underfunded. In 1998 there were 2 labs discovered in rural Pawnee County in 1999 there were 13. Adair County is known as the "Meth Capital of Oklahoma". The 27th District Task Force, which includes Adair

county seized \$12.5 million (281 pounds) worth of methamphetamine through March of 2000. The task force covers a 2,752-mile area and seized 132 meth labs during 1999. During 1998 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma received funding from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) under the Methamphetamine Initiative. The grant is to help communities fight the spread of methamphetamine by developing community policing strategies.¹¹

- The number of drug-related deaths in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma rose 24.7% from 170 in 1997 to 212 in 1998. Methamphetamine-related deaths rose from 32 in 1995 to 61 in 1997, and then dropped to 56 in 1998. The majority of decedents in 1998 were male (67.0%), white (69.8%), and 35 years or older (67.5%).¹²

Drug Abuse Deaths in Oklahoma City, 1997-98

Selected Characteristics	1997	1998
Total drug-abuse episodes	170	212
GENDER		
Male	120	142
Female	50	69
RACE/ETHNICITY		
White	127	148
Black	9	16
Hispanic	3	5
Other	8	10
Unknown	23	33
AGE		
6-17	4	5
18-25	21	22
26-34	46	41
35 and up	99	143
SELECTED DRUGS		
Alcohol-in-comb	39	55
Cocaine	45	56
Heroin/Morphine	16	26
Marijuana/Hashish	--	--
Methadone	9	14
Methamphetamine	61	56
PCP	--	1
Total Drug Mentions	334	450

Trafficking and Seizures

- The most common way of trafficking drugs through and to Oklahoma is via highway. Trafficking through Oklahoma to and from California, New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, Georgia, Missouri, and Kansas is heavy in the panhandle of the state. Highway traffickers utilize both private owned and rented vehicles, as well as eighteen wheelers. Three major interstate highways and a few U.S. highways traverse Oklahoma.

Drug trafficking and use are prevalent in the rural areas of Oklahoma as well as the urban areas. Rural police officers and sheriffs deputies lack adequate funds to provide basic police services to citizens and combat illegal drugs.¹³ There were a total of 273 labs seized in Oklahoma during 1998 in 1999 there were 781 meth lab seizures. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation expects to uncover 900 labs in 2000.

- There were a total of 12,535,942 marijuana plants eradicated in Oklahoma during 1998.¹⁴

Marijuana Eradication in Oklahoma, 1996-1998

	1996	1997	1998
Outdoor Operations			
Plots Eradicated	904	912	289
Cultivated Plants Eradicated	45,152	85,594	30,337
Ditchweed Eradicated	1,333,023	566,339	12,505,303
Indoor Operations			
Grows Seized	9	3	5
Plants Eradicated	4,479	3,839	302
Total Plants Eradicated	1,382,654	655,772	12,535,942
Number of Arrests	41	57	62
Number of Weapons Seized	32	93	78
Value of Assets Seized	\$71,000	\$2,917,025	\$25,525

Courts

- In Oklahoma during Fiscal Year 1998 there were a total of 499 Federal defendants. Of the total 32.3% of these defendants were charged with drug related offenses. The most common drug involved in these offenses was methamphetamine (39.1%), followed by crack (22.3%), marijuana (24.8%), and powder cocaine (13%). Most of the 499 Federal defendants were charged with drug trafficking (27.7%).¹⁵

Treatment

- During 1997 there were 16,813 admission to substance abuse treatment facilities in the State of Oklahoma. Of the total number of clients 2,189 were admitted for treatment of methamphetamine.¹⁶

Treatment Admissions in Oklahoma, 1997

Drug	Number of Clients
Alcohol Only	5,118
Alcohol with secondary drug	3,765
Heroin	249
Cocaine (smoked)	1,460
Cocaine (other than smoked)	522
Marijuana/hashish	2,418
Methamphetamine/amphetamine	2,189
Hallucinogens	37
Inhalants	94
Total all Admissions	16,813

Corrections

- As of June 30th, 1999 Oklahoma's prisons held 21,788 prisoners, of these 24.9% were convicted of a drug offense.
- Drug-Related Correctional Programs in Oklahoma:
 - Substance Abuse Education: Substance Abuse Education (SAE) is a psycho-educational program offering the offender comprehensive information concerning the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs.
 - Treatment Alternatives for Drinking Drivers: The Treatment Alternatives for Drinking Drivers (TADD) program is a joint effort of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the Department of Corrections. The chronic alcohol offender is placed in a controlled environment and receives rehabilitative services in a residential treatment program. The program lasts from 30-60 days and consists of intensive individual therapy and alcohol education, followed by a transitional living program which combines work therapy and on-going therapeutic efforts. Following discharge from the residential program, the offender enters an aftercare phase which may include group or individual therapy, family therapy, vocational training, and job assistance.¹⁷

Source

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² State of Oklahoma Web site: <http://www.oklaosf.state.ok.us/>

³ Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site:
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/prevent/drugfree/chart2.html>

⁴ Executive Office of Weed and Seed web site: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows.htm>

⁵ State of Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs:
<http://www.state.ok.us/~obnndd/obntoc.html>

⁶ Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs, *1999 Annual Report*, 1999

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States 1998: Uniform Crime Reports*, October 1999

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ National Institute of Justice, *1998 Annual Report on Drug Use Among Adult and Juvenile Arrestees*, April 1999

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- ¹¹ A compilation of news stories from Tulsa World Web site: <http://www.tulsaworld.com>
- ¹² Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Drug Abuse Warning Network, Annual Medical Examiner Data 1998*, March 2000
- ¹³ State of Oklahoma, *The 1997 Drug and Violent Crime Control Strategy*, 1997
- ¹⁴ Drug Enforcement Administration, *Domestic Cannabis Eradication and Suppression Program Statistical Report*, March 1999
- ¹⁵ United States Sentencing Commission Web site: <http://www.ussc.gov>
- ¹⁶ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS): 1992-1997 National Admissions to Substance Abuse Treatment Services*, August 1999
- ¹⁷ Oklahoma Department of Corrections Web site: <http://www.doc.state.ok.us/>

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#) For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues contact:

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